Business Plan

2017–2018

Department of Seniors

NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2017–2018: Business Plans

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Message from the Minister

Older adults make Nova Scotia a better place. Through their support to their families and communities, as workers and entrepreneurs, and as volunteers in the not-for-profit sector, older adults make a vital contribution to our province.

With the launch of *SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*, the government has committed to creating the conditions for older adults, in all their diversity, to stay healthy, involved and connected to community life. *SHIFT* commits 11 government departments and agencies to more than 50 specific actions.

In 2017-2018, the Department of Seniors will lead and coordinate the implementation of the action plan across government. The department will also focus on expanding the Senior Safety Program to more communities in Nova Scotia and supporting age-friendly community planning. By collaborating with government departments, municipalities, businesses, community organizations and older adults themselves, we will ensure that all Nova Scotians benefit from the continued participation of older adults in the social and economic life of our province.

Original signed by

Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister
Department of Seniors

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Department Mandate

The Nova Scotia Department of Seniors provides policy leadership and coordination across government to value, promote and support the participation in and contribution by older adults to all aspects of Nova Scotia life.

On a day-to-day basis, our work includes:

- Leading, coordinating, and collaborating with departments across government, on the implementation and monitoring of *SHIFT*: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population
- Engaging stakeholders and creating partnerships to support Nova Scotians to grow old in safe, healthy, and age-friendly communities
- Conducting research and providing policy advice to government on matters related to aging and our aging population;
- Working with the federal and other provincial governments and other national partners to share knowledge and work together to address issues of common interest related to aging populations.

SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population

Between 2017 and 2020, the Department of Seniors will oversee the implementation and monitoring of *Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population*. The action plan is a government-wide initiative, with the following vision: Together, Nova Scotians value, support and promote older adults and their contribution to Nova Scotia.

The complexity and inter-connectedness of the issues and opportunities associated with an aging population mean that an integrated and coordinated approach to government policy and planning is necessary. There are many players within, and outside of government, including older adults themselves who have a role to play in advancing the interests of older adults in Nova Scotia.

The Minister and Deputy Minister of Seniors have overall responsibility for coordinating and implementing the action plan, creating an evaluation framework, and reporting annually on progress.

The action plan has three main goals:

- Value the social and economic contribution of older adults;
- Promote healthy, active living; and,
- Support aging in place, connected to community life

The plan also includes a series of activities to ensure that government decision making and the development of programs and services is based in evidence.

Priority Activities for 2017-2018

- Promote and educate employers about the value of older workers and age-friendly workplaces in partnership with Labour and Advanced Education and other governments.
- Partner with organizations involved in entrepreneurship education to promote entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, as a viable option for older adults.
- Work with partner organizations to promote mentorship opportunities for older adults.
- Encourage Nova Scotia municipalities and community organizations to engage in and implement age-friendly community plans and projects that promote positive aging in communities, in collaboration with the Department of Municipal Affairs, Housing Nova Scotia, the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and individual municipalities.
- Strengthen the Senior Safety Program and expand it to more communities in Nova Scotia.
- Host a TedxAgingWell conference and Silver Economy Summit that focus on the technologies of aging in place
- Work with Communities, Culture and Heritage and other government and community stakeholders to establish a Ministerial Committee and bring forward solutions to challenges in community transportation, particularly in rural areas of the province.
- Launch a public education campaign that shows older adults *in all their diversity*, dispels myths and misconceptions about older age, and demonstrates the contributions of older adults to our province
- Partner with Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Public Service Commission to create opportunities for government employees to receive training in cultural competence.
- Partner with other government departments to strengthen the collection and analysis of data that reflects the diversity of Nova Scotia's population, to inform evidence-based decision making
- Create a social innovation lab partnership and begin studying possible solutions and opportunities for addressing complex issues associated with an aging population

- Lead the development of an evaluation framework and reporting mechanism for monitoring and guiding the implementation of the action plan, in consultation with impacted government departments.

Departmental Expenses Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2016-2017 Estimate	2016-2017 Forecast	2017-2018 Estimate
Office of the Deputy Minister	240	228	230
General Administration	472.1	432	324
Age Friendly	410	395	489
Safety for Seniors	323	350	522
Policy and Planning (renamed, was Seniors Programs)	133	164	324
Group of Nine	20	17	17
Social Innovation Lab			395
Total - Departmental Expenses	1,598.1	1,586	2,301
Ordinary Recoveries	---	---	---
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	7.00	6.80	9.00

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1